

ACORUS AMERICANUS Raf.
American Sweet Flag

FAMILY: Acoraceae

HABIT: Rhizomatous perennial, leaves up to 1.45 m in length; flowering late spring to mid-summer.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Acorus calamus* L. is very similar to *A. americanus* but differs by its leaves having one prominent mid-vein and it is a sterile triploid.

TOTAL RANGE: Nova Scotia s. to Virginia w. to eastern South Dakota, British Columbia; disjunct populations in the Northwest Territories and Alaska.

STATE RANGE (as of 2006): There are post-1980 records from Ashland, Ashtabula, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Medina, Mercer, Richland, Sandusky, and Williams counties. There are pre-1980 records from Auglaize, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Mahoning, Ottawa, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Wet meadows, marshes, and swales.

HAZARDS: Draining wetlands, modifying water-levels, and invasive species.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Fair; this species is known to occur in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering or fruiting material.

COMMENTS: The destruction of coastal marshes along the Lake Erie coast has decreased its range considerably in Ohio. Remaining populations occur in disturbed wetlands prone to invasion by invasive species such as *Lythrum salicaria*, *Typha X glauca*, and *Phragmites australis*.

The non-native, *Acorus calamus*, is found throughout Ohio and often grows in moist depressions in cow pastures and other wet, open habitats.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Packer, J.G. and G.S. Ringius. 1984. The distribution and status of *Acorus* (Araceae) in Canada. *Canada J. Bot.* 62: 2248-2252.

Flora of North America Committee eds. 1993+. *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. 7+ vols. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.



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